

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Animal Feeding Operations Listserv

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DNR TO CHANGE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR OPEN FEEDLOT PERMITS

The DNR is updating the permitting process for open feedlots after a joint process improvement meeting with Iowa State University Extension and NRCS representatives in November. Producers will be asked to submit a preliminary design packet and meet with the DNR prior to submitting an application for a construction ([Form 542-1427](#)) or an NPDES ([Form 542-4001](#)) permit. Producers can expect the DNR to review the preliminary design information within 10 working days and identify potential problems with the site, reducing errors and delays in processing the permit application. The DNR expects to process a complete application within 60 days, down from the more than 156 days that some past applications have taken. More information and updated forms can be expected on the [DNR Web site](#) by Dec. 31.

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WHO NEEDS AN NPDES PERMIT?

In Iowa, generally, a livestock producer with 1,000 or more animal units (1,000 beef cattle, 700 mature dairy cattle or 2,500 finishing swine) in an open feedlot that may discharge open feedlot effluent to waters of the United States is required to have a national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit to operate the feedlot. Some smaller open feedlots that directly discharge to waters of the United States are also required to have NPDES permits. More information can be found on the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) Web site. Information and forms for open feedlots will be updated by Dec. 31 on the [DNR](#) Web site. Definitions of Large, Medium and Designated concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) can be found on the Iowa Administrative Code's Web site under [Chapter 65](#), Division II.

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COUNTIES SHOULD SIGN UP WITH DNR FOR MASTER MATRIX BY JAN. 31, 2007

Counties that want to evaluate proposed sites for confinement feeding operations that need a construction permit must adopt and file a construction evaluation resolution in

December or January. The county must submit the resolution to the DNR between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, 2007, allowing the counties to review confinement construction permits submitted between Feb. 1, 2007, and Jan. 31, 2008. Producers subject to the master matrix must meet higher environmental and community standards.

Participating counties must evaluate the master matrix submitted by the producer and make a recommendation to the DNR within 30 days of when the DNR received the application. The county is also responsible for verifying separation distances claimed on the master matrix, and if the county wants to conduct a site visit they may accompany the DNR on the site survey. Submit resolutions to Tammie Krausman at the DNR, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50319 or fax it to 515-281-6794. More information is available on the [DNR](#) and [ISAC](#) Web sites.

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CONFINEMENTS NEEDING A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT SHOULD CHECK FOR MASTER MATRIX

Producers who need to submit a construction permit application ([Form 542-1428](#)) to the DNR should check the list of counties requiring the [master matrix](#) starting Jan. 1. The list changes annually during January. The final list of 2007 participating counties will be posted on the DNR Web site by mid-February. Most confinement feeding operations are subject to the master matrix and must meet higher standards than other permitted sites by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on the environment and the community.